

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include new FIG. 1AA and changes to FIGS. 1A-C. The new sheet of drawings includes FIG. 1AA. The sheet including changes to FIGS. 1A-C replaces the original sheet showing FIGS. 1A-C. In FIGS. 1A-C, reference numeral "400" is changed to "300."

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 8-9 and 11 and FIGS. 1A-C are amended and claim 14 and FIG. 1AA are newly added. FIGS. 1A-C are amended to correct a minor informality. Namely, reference numeral 400 is changed to 300 since, in the detailed description, reference numerals 300 and 400 correspond, respectively, to the radial direction and the CPU (see page 8, line 22 and page 7, lines 16 of the detailed description). No new matter has been added. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 8-9 and 11-14 will remain pending in the patent application.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant would like to express appreciation for the Examiner's indication that claims 8 and 12 are allowed.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

In connection with the objection, the Examiner indicated that the drawings do not show the servo areas that are included in the inner radius of the disk medium and that have an inclination smaller than that of the data area, as set forth in claims 4 and 9.

In response, and in order to illustrate these features, Applicant submits herewith a new sheet of drawings including FIG. 1AA. Support for FIG. 1AA may be found in the embodiments described at page 11, lines 1-15 and page 14, lines 4-12 of the detailed description. Page 11, lines 1-15 and page 14, lines 4-12 of the detailed description indicate that the recording of the servo areas could be carried out from the outer radius to the inner radius of the disk medium. In such a case, and as described at page 11, lines 1-15 of the specification, the servo areas that have an inclination smaller than that of the data area are included in the inner radius of the disk medium. Applicant respectfully submits that FIG. 1AA merely depicts some features that are part of the original description. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The detailed description has been amended to include a reference to FIG. 1AA.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In connection with the rejection, the Examiner indicated that there is no support in the specification for a smaller inclination angle of the servo data at the inner radius of the disk. Applicant respectfully disagrees and directs the Examiner's attention to page 11, lines 1-15 and page 14, lines 4-12 of the detailed description.

As mentioned previously, these excerpts clearly indicate that recording of the servo areas could be carried out from the outer radius to the inner radius of the disk medium and that, in such a case, the servo areas that have an inclination smaller than that of the data area are included in the inner radius of the disk medium. For example, page 11, lines 5-15, state "in contrast, the servo head 210 can write servo data while it is seeking in the radial direction of the disk medium 11, e.g., from the outermost radius to the innermost radius. In this case, when the servo head 210 seeks from the intermediate radius of the disk medium 11 to the inner radius thereof, if the skew angle of the servo head 210 increases monotonously, an erase area is prevented from occurring by relatively decreasing the skew angle in a position of the inner radius where the skew angle is to become large." As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4 and 9 are fully supported by the original application and that one skilled in the art could make or use the invention from the disclosures in the patent coupled with information known in the art without undue experimentation. (See MPEP 2164.01).

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4 and 9, as filed, are part of the specification and, as such, clearly show that the inventors were in possession of the invention at the time of filing. See MPEP 2163 citing In Re Koller, 613 F.2d 819, 204 USPQ 702 (CCPA 1980).

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In connection with the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner indicated that a disk drive that includes a servo head to write the servo data to the medium is not supported by the specification because the specification discloses that the servo data are written using a servo track writer.

In response, claim 1 is amended to positively recite a disk drive wherein the servo data are pre-recorded on the servo areas in one of outer and inner radii of the disk medium by a servo head of a servo track writer with a skew angle that is different from a skew angle of the head. Support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found, for example, in the

embodiments of the invention described at pages 7-10 of the detailed description. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 1 obviate the rejection of claims 1 and 6.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In connection with the rejection, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-4 omit essential elements. In response, claims 2-4 are amended to positively recite that the servo data are prerecorded on the servo areas with the servo track writer. As mentioned previously, support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found, for example, in the embodiments of the invention described at pages 7-10 of the detailed description.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 2-4 obviate the rejection of these claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In connection with the rejection, the Examiner indicated that it is unclear as to when or at what portion of the disk the inclination becomes smaller than the data recorded in the data areas.

In response, claims 1 and 11 are amended to delete the term "become" and to positively recite that the servo data are pre-recorded on the servo areas in one of outer and inner radii of the disk medium by a servo head of a servo track writer with a skew angle that is different from a skew angle of the head such that an inclination of the servo data is smaller than that of the data recorded on the data areas of said one of outer and inner radii by the head.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1 and 11 obviate the rejection of these claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Claim 14 is newly added and defines additional subject matter that is novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Claim 14 is patentable over the art of record at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

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The rejections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl: New Drawing Sheet (FIG. 1AA)  
Replacement Drawing Sheet (FIGS. 1A-C)